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DR. K. B. MENON :—" Have the Government issued summary orders for the collection of loans that were advanced in 1952 for digging wells in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Only the usual orders have been issued and nothing very particular."

Government Hospital, Tellicherry.

* 595 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the average strength of in-patients in the Tellicherry Government Hospital per month in 1954; and

(*b*) the sanctioned bed-strength of the maternity ward in the said hospital and the average strength of in-patients per month in that ward in 1954?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The daily average number of in-patients treated in the Hospital during the first ten months of 1954 was 184·4.

" (*b*) The sanctioned bed strength of the labour ward of the hospital is only 8, but labour cases are admitted in the ward for women also. The daily average number of labour cases conducted in the first ten months of 1954 was 59·4."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As the hospital is now overcrowded and many persons seeking admission are not getting beds for want of room, will the Government be pleased to construct temporary sheds in order to accommodate more patients? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is not considered either desirable or necessary to construct temporary sheds anywhere."

Misappropriation of the Provident Fund amount of the workers of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company, Kozhikode, by the management.

* 596 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., on 10th July 1954, alleging that the management of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company, Kozhikode, Malabar, have misappropriated Rs. 81,000 out of the Provident Fund of the workers which is to be deposited in a bank under the supervision of the Government; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The State Government are not concerned with the subject-matter of the question. It is however understood that the letter referred

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to was received by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, an Officer of the Government of India, who also sent a reply to the letter.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Sri K. P. Gopalan :—" May I ask, when a misappropriation of funds by a factory owner takes place in the State, whether it is not the duty of this Government to see that the person who is responsible for it, is dealt with under the law? "

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner took notice of the misappropriation and in consultation with the Collector has taken the necessary steps in the matter. Now, at the instance of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, the Collector is taking action to realize the arrears due to orkers by selling the properties attached."

Sri M. Narayana Kurup :—" Inasmuch as 'labour' is a concurrent subject, after the fact of misappropriation was brought to the notice of this Government, did this Government take any action to ascertain how, when the Regional Inspector for Provident Fund was making periodical visits to factories and inspecting the accounts, such large-scale misappropriation had taken place? "

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" As I have already stated, the initiative in such matters must be taken only by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, who is an officer of the Government of India. When he has moved in the matter now, the officers of this Government, including the Collector, take necessary action."

Closure of elementary schools in the Malabar district.

* 597 *Q.*—Sri K. P. Gopalan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that about 40 elementary schools under the Malabar District Board have been closed down during the past four years; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" (*a*) & (*b*) About 60 schools were either closed or amalgamated with other schools in the same locality, on account of uneconomic strength or house-collapse or want of suitable accommodation."

Sri K. P. Gopalan :—" Is it a fact that the Government did not give their grants to elementary schools under the District Board in due time and if so, whether that was the reason for the closure of elementary schools under the District Board? "

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" No, Sir. That is not the reason."